

Service located at 217 Southeast 2nd Street in Dimmitt, Texas, as the Sergeant Jacob Dan Dones Post Office; "yea" on rollcall 290 for H.R. 5504, which designates the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6029 Broadmoor Street in Mission, Kansas, as the Larry Winn, Jr. Post Office Building; and "yea" on rollcall 291 for H. Res. 826, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a National Youth Sports Week should be established.

STAY THE COURSE? WHAT COURSE?

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the record a column by Eugene Robinson entitled *Stay the Course? What Course?* appearing in *The Washington Post* Friday, June 16, 2006.

Mr. Robinson asks this question more than 3 years after the preemptive invasion of Iraq on false pretenses. I too ask this question as do many of my fellow Americans and my Democratic colleagues in the House of Representatives. The President and House Republican leadership have no answer as the so-called "debate" on the Global War on Terror on June 15th in the House proved.

For 10 long hours, those who listened to the speeches from the Republicans from the floor of the House heard unrelenting propaganda with 1983 bomb attacks, the 1988 bombing over Lockerbie Scotland, the first attack on the World Trade Towers, the bombing of the United States embassies in Africa, and over and over again the about the terror attacks by al-Qaeda on 9/11.

Not only was a plan for an end of the Iraq war not mentioned all cited these attacks which were cited had nothing to do with Iraq. They had not even a de minimis connection with Iraq or even with the present situation in which we find ourselves. These reminders of past acts of al-Qaeda were merely a piling on of the non-existent connection between al-Qaeda and Iraq. So, instead of a plan for bringing our soldiers home from Iraq, the Republicans continued in their unrelenting propaganda answering no genuine questions the American people want answered.

I am tired of hearing about "free democratic elections" in Iraq and the school houses our troops have painted. We did not go to war to set up free elections in Iraq. I am also tired of hearing how grateful our gravely wounded troops are to have had their legs blown off for the freedom of our country. Republicans should be embarrassed to repeat those stories.

Those are not good stories. I wanted to hear the Republican plan to make sure no one else has to lose their legs and their arms and their sight for my "freedom." My freedom is threatened by the PATRIOT Act and a President who believes he can violate the Fourth Amendment at will. My freedom was never threatened by Saddam Hussein.

I am also hearing from the party of the endless war in Iraq that the Democrats have no

plan. The Democrats made it clear yesterday in our statements last week that the House Democrats' plan is the Murtha Resolution. It was also made clear that the Republicans are afraid to hear a Democratic plan by the Republican majority voting for a Rule for the "debate" that did not allow any amendments to the Resolution by the Democrats. The Republican Leadership made this the Rule for the "debate and pushed it through ignoring the democracy they so applaud when the Iraqis show any faint signs of achieving it.

Eugene Robinson wrote in the Post: "Fresh from his triumphal visit to Baghdad—a place so dangerous he had to sneak in without even telling the Iraq prime minister—George W. Bush is full of new resolve to stay the course in his open-ended 'war on terror. That leaves the rest of us to wonder, in sadness and frustration, just what that course might be and where on earth it can possibly lead."

Thirty-seven months since the President declared the "end of major combat" in Iraq he has given the American people platitudes, rhetoric, slogans, or worse, fear of an "evil ideology" and "evil doers." But he has given us no real plan, not even a hint of a plan for the conduct of the war, the reconstruction of the Iraq, the plan to begin the withdrawal of American troops or the metrics by which we can define "victory" in Iraq.

George W. Bush wanted to be a "war president" and whatever acts and whatever lies it took, he became a war president. Now it is apparent he will stay a war president no matter what the American people want. He plainly said the next president would have to find an exit plan so our men and women can finally come home from Iraq.

But Bush's war and his need to be a war president have serious consequences. Some of these are pointed out by Eugene Robinson; "Three desperate suicides at Guantánamo is answered by Rear Adm. Harry Harris's all-about-me lament—"I believe this . . . was an act of asymmetrical warfare waged against us." He wrote: "This is a 'war' in which the United States drops two 500-pound bombs with the express intent of assassinating Abu Musab al Zarqawi the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, a group that wouldn't have existed if Bush hadn't decided to invade." If Iraqi civilians are killed in a bomb attack such as the one on the Zarqawi safe house we did not say we were sorry about those civilians. Zarqawi was a "high value target." We said we are sorry that a "few bad apples" did bad things at Abu Ghraib prison. Or pardon us if a few soldiers killed civilians in cold blood, but after all we are at war.

Mr. Robinson wrote that if the Iraqi government does pardon Iraqis who have killed Americans we will have taught them well. "They'll be saying 'pardon me' just like their American tutors."

Mr. Robinson reminds us that the jihadists of today were forged fighting Russians in Afghanistan. The next generation are being forged today fighting Americans in Iraq. He also reminds us that Iraq is just one theater in Bush's war. He writes: "Afghanistan is once again 'ablaze' with counterattacks by Taliban."

Mr. Robinson is right: "American's popularity in the world continues to fall. But George W. Bush forges ahead, trying vainly to kill a poisonous retrograde ideology with bullets and

bombs. His 'war' is self-perpetuating, and no one even knows what victory would look like. Long after he's gone, we'll still be looking for a way to end the mess he began."

EXPLANATION OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 19, I was in California attending my son's graduation from high school. I arranged ahead of time to be granted an official leave of absence from the House on Monday, June 19th. Through a misunderstanding, I was granted a leave for the entire week. I want the House to know that I am present and voting on Tuesday, June 20th and the balance of the week.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on Keeping the Flame of Hope Alive.

Throughout their long and daunting journey from oppression and persecution to asylum and protection, and eventually to a place they can call home, refugees show incredible strength, courage and determination. Their journey is a dangerous and arduous one and every day spent in exile is a day too long.

But in every step of their journey refugees carry with them an unshakable, unrelenting hope. By hanging on to their hopes for basic survival, sustenance and protection, and for the chance to one day rebuild their lives, refugees defy all odds. The U.N. Refugee Agency must continue to be impressed by the tenacious hopefulness of refugees which, in turn, motivates us to leave no stone unturned in the fulfillment of our mandate, to protect them and to find durable solutions to their plight.

On World Refugee Day, we ask you to remember the millions of refugees under U.N. care who are trying to pick up the pieces of once-peaceful lives. As different as they are from each other, one thing connects them all: hope for a better future and a chance to restore lasting peace to their lives.

Help us keep that flame of hope alive!

Latest Statistics: 20.8 million

Latest statistics indicate that of the 20.8 million people of concern:

8.4 million are refugees who have fled their countries due to civil wars and ethnic, tribal and religious violence and who cannot return home

6.6 million are internally displaced persons—people forced to flee their homes, but who have not crossed a border

2.4 million are stateless people

1.6 million are returnees

773,000 are asylum seekers

960,000 are others of concern